

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 09086 151548Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----057564 151550Z /45
O 151500Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2182

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 9086

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) PL
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT - PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: WARSAW 8999

1. PURSUANT TO THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER SPASOWSKI, AN EMBASSY OFFICER HANDED A COPY OF THE MEMORANDUM CITED IN THE REF TO STANISZEWSKI. AFTER PERUSING THE LIST, STANISZEWSKI POINTED TO THE NAMES OF MAZOWIECKI, GOTTESMAN, KISIEKEWSKI, KIJOWSKI, ANDRZEJEWSKI, AND MICHNIK AND SAID, "THESE PEOPLE ARE DISSIDENTS; THEY OPPOSE OUR GOVERNMENT. HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO PERMIT THEM TO ATTEND AN OFFICIAL PRESS CONFERENCE? YOUR PRESIDENT IS COMING HERE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MEET SECRETARY GIEREK, AND IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO MEET PEOPLE LIKE THIS." THE EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT HE SAW NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL NATURE OF THE VISIT AND THE PRESENCE OF THESE PEOPLE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. WHEN MR. GIEREK CAME TO THE U.S., HE ADDED, HE WAS FREE TO MEET ANYBODY HE WISHED. HE ADDED THAT SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WILL BE SO SHORT, THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE ONLY OCCASION THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE FOR ANY KIND OF EXPOSURE TO JOURNALISTS AND OTHER INTELLECTUALS WHO WOULD NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

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2. STANISZEWSKI AGAIN SAID HE DID NOT SEE HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INVITE MOST OF THE PEOPLE ON THE LIST. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE NAME OF SLOWO POWSZECHNE EDITOR JANUSZ STEFANOWICZ WAS NOT ON IT. THE EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT THE NAMES OF MANY POLISH JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING STEFANOWICZ,

WERE NOT ON THE LIST BECAUSE THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE ACCREDITED BY THE POLISH SIDE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. THIS WAS NOTHING LIKE A COMPLETE LIST, THE OFFICER ADDED, BUT RATHER THE NAMES OF A FEW PEOPLE WHO WOULD PROVIDE THE REPRESENTATIONAL CHARACTER THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AT THE CONFERENCE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO STANISZEWSKI'S REPEATED "IMPOSSIBLE," THE EMBASSY OFFICER RECALLED HOW STANISZEWSKI'S PREDECESSOR TWO YEARS AGO HAD REACTED SIMILARLY TO THE EMBASSY REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN RFE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS GROUP. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE POLISH SIDE AGREED THAT THE RFE REPRESENTATIVE COULD COME, AND HE DID, AND EVERYTHING WENT VERY SMOOTHLY. EXPRESSING THE EXPECTATION THAT ATTENDANCE OF THE SUGGESTED JOURNALISTS AND INTELLECTUALS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD TURN OUT SIMILARLY WELL, THE EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED STANISZEWSKI TO CONSIDER THE PROS AND CONS INVOLVED IN HAVING THESE PEOPLE ATTEND THE CONFERENCE OR HAVING WORLDWIDE ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THEIR ABSENCE. MOREOVER, HE ADDED, PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE MIGHT ENGAGE IN SOME SORT OF PUBLICITY THAT IN ITSELF WOULD BE FAR MORE DAMAGING THAN THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE.
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4. STANISZEWSKI CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY REPEATING HIS VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE PEOPLE LIKE MAZOWIECKI AT THE CONFERENCE. HE PROMISED A CONSIDERED RESPONSE AFTER HE HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES.
DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WARSAW09086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770467-0413
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771249/aaaabpvp.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2d14c02-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 WARSAW 8999
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 213229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S VISIT - PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OVIP, PL, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2d14c02-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009